

The Claims

Claims 1-25. (Canceled).

26. (Currently amended) A system comprising:
an interface allowing management devices corresponding to a plurality of management agents responsible for managing the system to access the system; and
a controller to operate as a trusted third party mediating interaction among the plurality of management agents by assigning each of the plurality of management agents to a different one of a plurality of ownership domains and restricting the rights of each ownership domain in the system, wherein only one of the plurality of management agents can correspond to a top-level ownership domain at a time, and wherein any of the other management agents can revoke the top-level ownership domain.

27. (Original) A system as recited in claim 26, wherein the controller is further to terminate execution of a software engine in the system in response to a request from a management device corresponding to one of the plurality of management agents.

28. (Original) A system as recited in claim 26, wherein the controller is further to initiate execution of a software engine in the system in response to a request from a management device corresponding to one of the plurality of management agents.

29. (Currently amended) A system as recited in claim 26, wherein ~~one of the plurality of ownership domains is a~~ the top-level ownership domain has having a first set of rights, and wherein each of the other ownership domains in the plurality of ownership domains has a second set of rights.

30. (Original) A system as recited in claim 29, wherein the second set of rights is more restrictive than the first set of rights.

31. (Currently amended) A system as recited in claim 29 comprising: an interface allowing management devices corresponding to a plurality of management agents responsible for managing the system to access the system; and a controller to operate as a trusted third party mediating interaction among the plurality of management agents by assigning each of the plurality of management agents to a different one of a plurality of ownership domains and restricting the rights of each ownership domain in the system, wherein one of the plurality of ownership domains is a top-level ownership domain having a first set of rights, wherein each of the other ownership domains in the plurality of ownership domains has a second set of rights, and wherein the first set of rights includes: the right to create new ownership domains, the right to access system

memory, the right to access a mass storage device of the system, the right to modify filters in the system, the right to start execution of software engines in the system, the right to stop execution of software engines in the system, the right to debug software engines in the system, the right to change authentication credentials for the ownership domain, the right to modify a storage key for the ownership domain, and the right to subscribe to events engine events, machine events, and packet filter events at the system.

32. (Currently amended) A system as recited in claim 29 comprising:
an interface allowing management devices corresponding to a plurality of management agents responsible for managing the system to access the system; and
a controller to operate as a trusted third party mediating interaction among the plurality of management agents by assigning each of the plurality of management agents to a different one of a plurality of ownership domains and restricting the rights of each ownership domain in the system, wherein one of the plurality of ownership domains is a top-level ownership domain having a first set of rights, wherein each of the other ownership domains in the plurality of ownership domains has a second set of rights, and wherein the second set of rights includes: the right to revoke an existing ownership domain, the right to modify filters in the system, the right to change authentication credentials for the ownership domain, and the right to subscribe to machine events and packet filter events at the system.

33. (Currently amended) A system as recited in claim 29 comprising:
an interface allowing management devices corresponding to a plurality of management agents responsible for managing the system to access the system; and a controller to operate as a trusted third party mediating interaction among the plurality of management agents by assigning each of the plurality of management agents to a different one of a plurality of ownership domains and restricting the rights of each ownership domain in the system, wherein one of the plurality of ownership domains is a top-level ownership domain having a first set of rights, wherein each of the other ownership domains in the plurality of ownership domains has a second set of rights, and wherein the first set of rights includes: the right to create new ownership domains, the right to access system memory, the right to access a mass storage device of the system, and the right to modify filters in the system.

34. (Currently amended) A system as recited in claim 29 comprising:
an interface allowing management devices corresponding to a plurality of management agents responsible for managing the system to access the system; and a controller to operate as a trusted third party mediating interaction among the plurality of management agents by assigning each of the plurality of management agents to a different one of a plurality of ownership domains and restricting the rights of each ownership domain in the system, wherein one of the plurality of ownership domains is a top-level ownership domain having a first set of rights, wherein each of the other ownership domains in the plurality of ownership domains has a second set of rights, and wherein the second set of rights

includes: the right to revoke an existing ownership domain and the right to modify filters in the system, including the right to add a filter that cannot be subverted by a management agent assigned to the top-level ownership domain.

35. (Currently amended) A system as recited in claim 29 comprising: an interface allowing management devices corresponding to a plurality of management agents responsible for managing the system to access the system; and a controller to operate as a trusted third party mediating interaction among the plurality of management agents by assigning each of the plurality of management agents to a different one of a plurality of ownership domains and restricting the rights of each ownership domain in the system, wherein one of the plurality of ownership domains is a top-level ownership domain having a first set of rights, wherein each of the other ownership domains in the plurality of ownership domains has a second set of rights, and wherein the controller allows a device corresponding to any one of the other ownership domains to revoke the top-level ownership domain, and wherein the controller erases a system memory during the revocation process.

36. (Canceled).

37. (Currently amended) A system as recited in claim 26 comprising: an interface allowing management devices corresponding to a plurality of management agents responsible for managing the system to access the system; and

a controller to operate as a trusted third party mediating interaction among the plurality of management agents by assigning each of the plurality of management agents to a different one of a plurality of ownership domains and restricting the rights of each ownership domain in the system, wherein only one of the plurality of management agents can correspond to a top-level ownership domain at a time, and wherein the one management agent can create a new ownership domain for a new management agent, and wherein the new ownership domain becomes the new top-level ownership domain.

38. (Currently amended) A system as recited in claim 26 comprising:
an interface allowing management devices corresponding to a plurality of management agents responsible for managing the system to access the system; and
a controller to operate as a trusted third party mediating interaction among the plurality of management agents by assigning each of the plurality of management agents to a different one of a plurality of ownership domains and restricting the rights of each ownership domain in the system, wherein only one of the plurality of management agents can correspond to a top-level ownership domain at a time, wherein which of the plurality of management agents corresponds to the top-level ownership domain at any given time can vary over time, and wherein the controller erases a system memory each time a change occurs in which of the plurality of management agents corresponds to the top-level ownership domain.

39. (Original) A system as recited in claim 26, wherein the system comprises a node in a co-location facility.

40. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

associating each of a plurality of management agents with one of a plurality of ownership domains, wherein each of the plurality of management agents is responsible for managing at least a portion of a computer and is external to the computer;

allowing only one of the plurality of management agents to have an extended set of rights to the computer at a time, and assigning the remaining management devices a more limited set of rights; and

restricting which requests from management devices corresponding to the plurality of management agents are carried out based at least in part on the rights of the management agent;

allowing which of the plurality of management agents has the extended set of rights to change over time; and

erasing a system memory each time a change occurs in which of the plurality of management agents has the extended set of rights.

41. (Original) A method as recited in claim 40, where each of the plurality of management agents corresponds to one or more management devices that are coupled to the computer.

42. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 40 comprising:
associating each of a plurality of management agents with one of a plurality of ownership domains, wherein each of the plurality of management agents is responsible for managing at least a portion of a computer and is external to the computer;

allowing only one of the plurality of management agents to have an extended set of rights to the computer at a time, and assigning the remaining management devices a more limited set of rights, wherein the extended set of rights includes: the right to create new ownership domains, the right to access system memory, the right to access a mass storage device of the system, the right to modify filters in the system, the right to start execution of software engines in the system, the right to stop execution of software engines in the system, the right to debug software engines in the system, the right to change authentication credentials for the ownership domain, the right to modify a storage key for the ownership domain, and the right to subscribe to events engine events, machine cvcnts, and packet filter events at the system; and

restricting which requests from management devices corresponding to the plurality of management agents are carried out based at least in part on the rights of the management agent.

43. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 40 comprising:
associating each of a plurality of management agents with one of a plurality of ownership domains, wherein each of the plurality of management agents is

responsible for managing at least a portion of a computer and is external to the computer;

allowing only one of the plurality of management agents to have an extended set of rights to the computer at a time, and assigning the remaining management devices a more limited set of rights, wherein the more limited set of rights includes: the right to revoke an existing ownership domain, the right to modify filters in the system, the right to change authentication credentials for the ownership domain, and the right to subscribe to machine events and packet filter events at the system; and

restricting which requests from management devices corresponding to the plurality of management agents are carried out based at least in part on the rights of the management agent.

44. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 40 comprising:
associating each of a plurality of management agents with one of a plurality of ownership domains, wherein each of the plurality of management agents is responsible for managing at least a portion of a computer and is external to the computer;

allowing only one of the plurality of management agents to have an extended set of rights to the computer at a time, and assigning the remaining management devices a more limited set of rights, wherein the extended set of rights includes: the right to create new ownership domains, the right to access system memory, the right to access a mass storage device of the system, and the right to modify filters in the system; and

restricting which requests from management devices corresponding to the plurality of management agents are carried out based at least in part on the rights of the management agent.

45. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 40 comprising:
associating each of a plurality of management agents with one of a plurality of ownership domains, wherein each of the plurality of management agents is responsible for managing at least a portion of a computer and is external to the computer;

allowing only one of the plurality of management agents to have an extended set of rights to the computer at a time, and assigning the remaining management devices a more limited set of rights, wherein the more limited set of rights includes: the right to revoke an existing ownership domain and the right to modify filters in the system, including the right to add a filter that cannot be subverted by a management agent assigned to the top-level ownership domain; and

restricting which requests from management devices corresponding to the plurality of management agents are carried out based at least in part on the rights of the management agent.

46. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 40 comprising:
associating each of a plurality of management agents with one of a plurality of ownership domains, wherein each of the plurality of management agents is

responsible for managing at least a portion of a computer and is external to the computer;

allowing only one of the plurality of management agents to have an extended set of rights to the computer at a time, and assigning the remaining management devices a more limited set of rights, wherein the one management agent corresponds to a top-level ownership domain, and wherein any of the other management agents can revoke the rights of the one management agent; and

restricting which requests from management devices corresponding to the plurality of management agents are carried out based at least in part on the rights of the management agent.

47. (Original) A method as recited in claim 40, further comprising:

assigning, by the one management agent having the extended set of rights, the extended set of rights to a new management agent;

assigning the one management agent to having the more limited set of rights.

48. (Canceled).

49. (Original) A method as recited in claim 40, further comprising terminating execution of a software engine in the computer in response to a request from a management device corresponding the one management agent having the extended set of rights.

50. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 40, further comprising initiating execution of a software engine in the computer in response to a request from a management device corresponding to the one management agent having the extended set of rights.

51. (Original) A method as recited in claim 40, wherein the computer comprises a node in a co-location facility.

52. (Canceled).